ABSTRACT

THESIS: A Non-metric Trait Variation Analysis of 15th Century Prehistoric Skeletal Remains

STUDENT: M. LaTisha Neiberg

DEGREE: Master of Arts

COLLEGE: Science and Humanities

DATE: July 2014

PAGES: 86

This research sought to use non-metric traits to better understand the relationship among burial samples at the southwestern Pennsylvania Campbell Farm site (36FA26). This study intended to discover whether the individuals at the site were related to each other, and focused on the non-metric traits observed within the population. One additional reason for the research was to test whether non-metric trait analysis is a reliable indicator of familial relationships on a small sample. With the information gained through data collection, a picture of familial lineage possibly may be better understood. The cranial and infra-cranial non-metric traits in the available sample were examined for either presence (1) or absence (0) for 15 adult females and nine adult males. The scoring as present or absent was selected because the traits can be scored on remains that are well preserved or poorly preserved compared to metric analysis. Chi square pairwise correlation and diversity measure tests were run to determine intertrait correlation and biological relatedness. The results suggest matrilocal residency, which has been proposed by archaeologists for Monongahela culture.